

**A Further Note on *Tecomanthe speciosa*  
W.R.B. Oliver (BIGNONIACEAE)**

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**ABSTRACT**

The occurrence of naturally fertilized fruits, and the establishment of seedlings under a parent vine, are recorded.

Oliver (1948, P. 233) described the single plant of *Tecomanthe speciosa* found on Great Island in the Three Kings group by Dr G. T. S. Baylis in November-December 1945. Although the plant was described as a vigorous twiner, about 20 to 30 feet high, no fruits were found. Hunter (1958, P. 41) illustrated fruits which he obtained in 1956 by hand-pollinating flowers of a cutting cultivated at Mt Albert Research Station. These fruits were quite conspicuous by December 1956, and it seemed at that time that the absence of fruits and seedlings on Great Island might be due to a failure of pollination.

The purpose of this note is to record that hand-pollination is not always necessary for fertilization, and that seedlings will develop under a parent plant with little assistance.

In 1957 and subsequent years, the Mt Albert cutting set fruits naturally and hand-pollination was not necessary. Bees frequented the flowers and may have assisted pollination. Fruits obtained were sent to botanical centres overseas, and some seeds were raised at Mt Albert to provide plants for distribution.

In 1964 it was decided to leave the fruits to ripen on the vine, and to distribute the seeds below the parent plant. The only soil preparation was to clear weeds from the area below the plant before scattering the seeds. The seeds were sown in April 1964 and, during the winter and spring, any large weeds which grew on the site were pulled out by hand. No other help was given to assist the establishment of the seedlings.

A number of seeds germinated and the plants were photographed in mid-January 1965. The illustration shows the seedlings among fallen leaves of the parent plant. The labels are exposed about 9 cm. to mark the plants and indicate their height.

## REFERENCES

- HUNTER, J. A., 1958. Additional notes on *Tecomanthe speciosa* W. R. B. Oliver (Bignoniaceae) from the Three Kings Islands, New Zealand. *Rec. Auck. Inst. Mus.* 5; pp. 41-42.
- OLIVER, W. R. B., 1948. The Flora of the Three Kings Islands. *Rec. Auck. Inst. Mus.* 3; pp. 211-238.



Seedlings of *Tecomanthe speciosa* W. R. B. Oliver, growing under the parent "cutting" at Mt Albert Research Station. Photo: A. Underhill.